

Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

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R 311017Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3513
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 22278

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, CN
SUBJECT: COMOROS

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE JULY 30, STATE SECRETARY FOR OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS AND TERRITORIES STIRN REMARKED THAT THE COMOROS PROBLEM IS ONE WITH WHICH THE FRENCH WILL JUST HAVE TO LIVE. THE SPLIT IN THE ISLANDS WAS THE LAST THING THE GOF HAD WANTED, BUT THE GOF COULD NOT DISREGARD THE WISHES OF 40,000 PEOPLE WHO DISLIKE THE PEOPLE OF THE OTHER THREE ISLANDS AND WANT TO REMAIN FRENCH. AFTER ALL, HE SAID, AN ISLAND MENTALITY DOES EXIST, AFRICAN OBEISANCE TO TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY NOTWITHSTANDING.

2. THE FRENCH ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE COMOROS REPUBLIC AND HOPE TO ESTABLISH A SORT OF COMMON MARKET BETWEEN IT AND MAYOTTE. STIRN RECOGNIZED THAT IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY DIFFICULT FOR THE COMORAN GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, BUT SAW NO ALTERNATIVE TO MAKING THE EFFORT.
GAMMON

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Message Attributes

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